

Theme: Basics of phonology: phonemes, allophones and segments.
Based on: Hayes, 2009, chapter 2.

An introductory note, still on phonetics:

Pronouncing the IPA chart: (please let me know if you find further ones...)

- a. <http://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/ipa-lab.htm>
<http://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/charts/IPALab/IPALab.htm>
- b. <http://www.yorku.ca/earmstro/ipa/>

Highly suggested “homework”: spend 30 minutes listening to them.

NB: What you hear is not necessarily what you “should” hear.

1. Data: observe sound patterns!

J vs. J^w in American English (Hayes, p. 44)

<i>migrants</i>	['maɪɡɪ ^w ənts]	<i>Homeric</i>	[hou ^w 'meɪɪ ^w ɪk]
<i>or</i>	['ɔɪ]	<i>trek</i>	['tɪ ^w ɛk]
<i>from</i>	['fɪ ^w ɹəm]	<i>debriefed</i>	[di ^w 'bɪɪ ^w ɪft]
<i>shire</i>	['ʃaɪɹ]	<i>reply</i>	[ɹɪ ^w 'plɑɪ]
<i>tripling</i>	['tɹɪ ^w ɪplɪŋ]	<i>Iraqi</i>	[ɹɪ ^w 'ɑki]
<i>metaphor</i>	['metə ^w ,fɔɹ]	<i>preys</i>	['pɹɪ ^w eɪz]
<i>iridium</i>	['ɪɹɪ ^w ɪdiəm]	<i>ranted</i>	['ɹɹ ^w æntəd]
<i>proclivities</i>	[pɹɪ ^w ou ^w 'klɪvəɹɪz]	<i>crucible</i>	['kɹɪ ^w usəbəl]
<i>romancing</i>	[ɹɪ ^w ou ^w 'mænsɪŋ]	<i>indiscriminately</i>	[,ɪndəs ^w 'kɹɪ ^w mənətli]
<i>February</i>	['feɪbjueɹɪ ^w i]	<i>fear</i>	['fɪɹ]
<i>dwarfing</i>	['dɹɹɔɹfɪŋ]	<i>dreadful</i>	['dɹɹɪ ^w ɛdfəl]
<i>assure</i>	[ə ^w 'ʃuɹ]	<i>feldspar</i>	['fɛldspɑɹ]

Hayes' chapter 2 combines the basics of structuralist phonology and early generative phonology.

2. Structuralist phonology

Basics of the **structuralist turn**: language (etc.) as a *system* (F. de Saussure, 1916).

Sapir, Edward. Sound patterns in language. *Language* 1.2 (1925): 37-51.

Levels of abstraction: physical sound > speech sound > allophone > phoneme

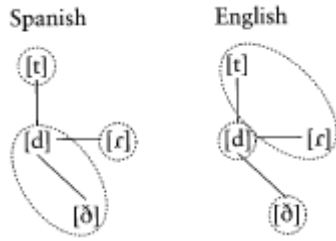
Structuralism: phoneme as an abstract entity. Different from the *default/elsewhere* allophone.

Minimal pair vs. complementary distribution

Fieldwork: data collection followed by systematic methods to uncover the phoneme system:

search for minimal pairs, or demonstrate complementary distribution.

(In fact, you very often also need to rely on intuition, e.g., whether such a word could exist.)



(NB: Spanish [d] is dental, English [d] is alveolar.)

Natural classes and features.

3. Early generative phonology

Two basics of the **cognitive turn**: biological approach + computational approach (Chomsky, 1957).

Chomsky, Noam, and Morris Halle. *The sound pattern of English*. (1968).

Why formalize?

- after practice, easier to work with beyond a certain level of complexity than plain text
- more efficient way of communication between trained scientists
- cracking the software code in the mind / writing code for artificial intelligence.

Programming: data structure + commands + general architecture.

Cf. two major components of a phonological theory:

1. Representation: “grasp it: this is what it is.”
E.g., segments; features of natural classes; syllable constituents; autosegmental tiers.
2. Processes (mappings): “do something with it: this is what it becomes.”
In many contemporary theories: *underlying form* → *surface form*
(rewrite rules in SPE phonology; Optimality Theory filters).
Alternative: declarative approach: restrictions on what *surface form* can look like.

‘Phonemes’ and ‘allophones’ replaced with ‘segments’ + introduce features and rewrite rules.

Underlying form/representation → surface form/representation.

Underlying segment, if unchanged, appears as default/elsewhere surface segment.

Phonemes? Allophones? Phonology? Phonetics? p. 29, 33, etc.: /x/ → [χ]

4. Structuralist phonology of Hungarian

Reading for Thursday: Hayes, chapter 3. Kenstowicz 2.5 – 2.7.

Not-yet homework: Create an inventory of the sounds in ‘your’ language. Describe them using the IPA-symbols. Create the inventory of the phonemes in ‘your’ language. Search for minimal pairs, or demonstrate complementary distributions, and formulate allophony rules.